

WEST LAFAYETTE \$16 MONTHLY TRASH FEE NOW IN EFFECT

First fee increase in 21 years; weekly service includes trash, recyclables, leaves, large item collection

West Lafayette, IN – July 5, 2013 – The first West Lafayette trash fee increase in 21 years was effective July 1, with the monthly fee increasing from \$9 a month to \$16 a month; a \$4 cost per week for residents to have trash, recyclables, leaves, large furniture and all items except hazardous materials collected from their curbs.

According to Mayor John Dennis, the fee increase will cover operations, staffing and equipment for the City's trash collection service.

"Twenty-one years is a long time for any service in our society to continue without an increase in cost. We proudly hold our trash collection program up against others in the State and believe the comprehensive nature of what our crews collect from routine trash to recyclables in our new 48-gallon carts designated for recyclables to discarded furniture and other large items is a valuable service provided to our residents.

"With rising fuel costs, increased size of trash containers and a focus on recycling, trash collection expenses have increased, as everything does over time. Having held our trash fee steady for more than two decades, we worked to ensure this increase was no more than absolutely necessary. Except for hazardous materials prohibited for obvious reasons, residents are not limited to the quantity and variety of discarded items they place at their curbs for an average weekly fee of \$4," Dennis said.

Grass clippings are no longer allowed in trash. Trash containers with secured lids and the carts holding recyclables can be placed at residents' curbs by 5:00 p.m. the night before scheduled collection, with the containers and carts needing to be picked back up by 11:00 p.m. the night after scheduled trash days.

Residents will see the \$16 monthly fee on their utility bills beginning this month.

In 1992, the City's trash fee was doubled from \$4.50 to \$9 a month.

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For questions or interview requests, contact Mayor Dennis at 765-775-5100 or Public Works Director David Buck at 765-775-5130.